

While many bands hide behind a screeching din of silliness, Wire Train has brazenly proved that you can have brains and a hard-driving beat. IN A CHAMBER, their first album for the 415/Columbia label, is the junction of poetic lyrics, searing emotional insight, and charged melodies. Every track on this debut album leads to one distinct terminal: human experience as it is lived day-to-day.

At the core of Wire Train are the songwriters, Kevin Hunter and Kurt Herr. A lanky and vibrant sort, Kevin was educated in France, Spain, Italy and Los Angeles. Inundated by the works of such great writers as Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, and Allen Ginsberg, Kevin began a profuse outpouring of his own, finishing two short novels by age sixteen. Then, while studying poetry in San Francisco, he encountered Kurt Herr. "When I met Kurt," recalls Kevin, "I asked him two questions: Did he play music? And did he want to be in a band? His answer to both questions was no."

This chance meeting was in 1980. Kurt, whose primary source of culture was New York City, quickly mastered the guitar, laying the early rails for Wire Train's beginnings. Eventually the band was solidified by the entrances of Anders Rundblad, a Swedish bassist from the popular band Motvind; and drummer Federico Gil-Sola, an Argentine musician recently emigrated to this country. First known as the Renegades, they all began their quest for a style that would be, in Kevin's words, "reflective of characteristics that exist in our personalities."

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